Lovely Strange Dark
SHIKOU SHOUNEN
"THOUGHT BOY"
BY FUJIWARA KAORU
CHAPTER 9
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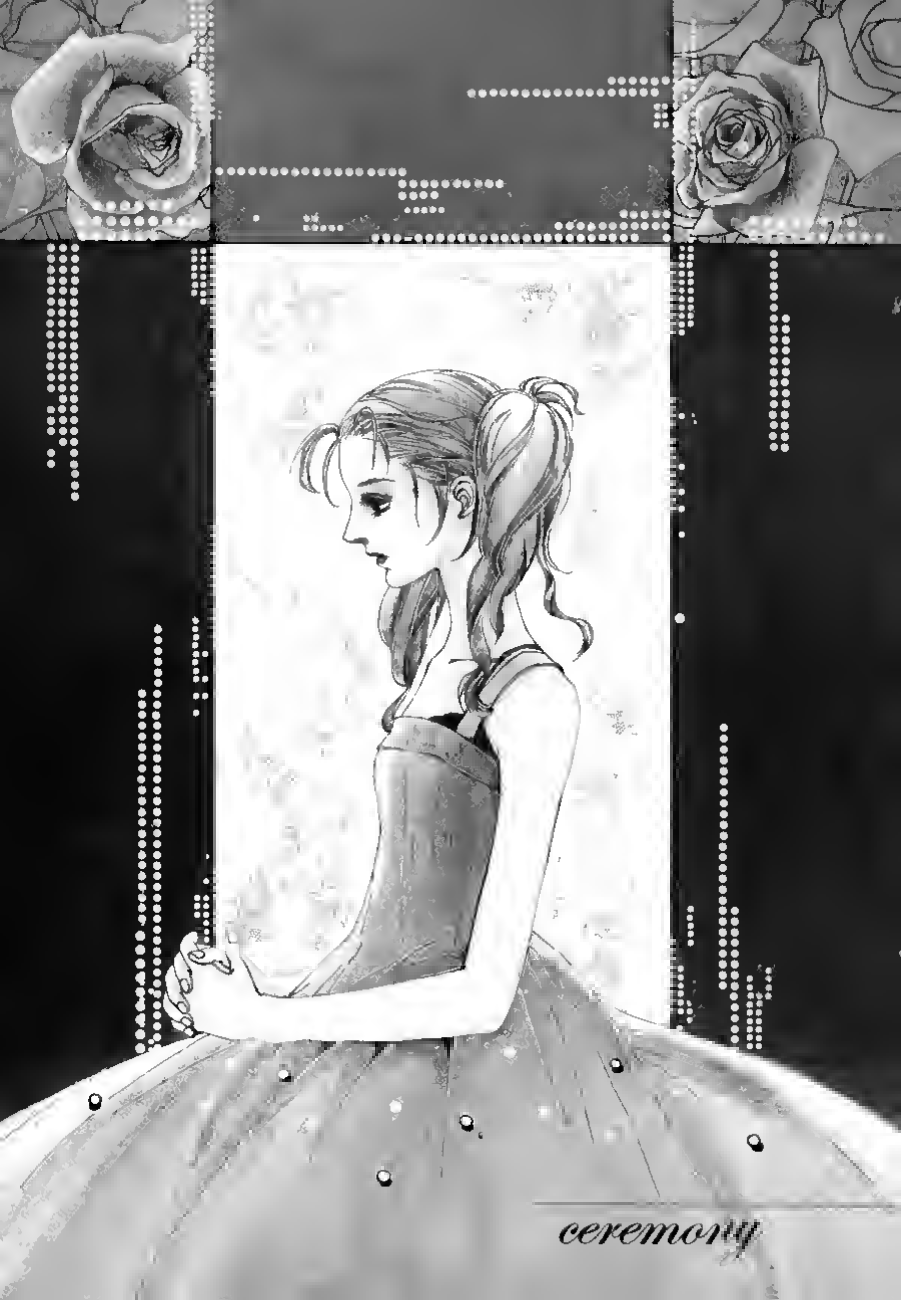
CHAPTER 9


ceremony

Your dreams
are also my
dreams.

HELLO ?
WHAT'S WRONG? WHERE ARE YOU?
RRRRRRRRRR
THE HOSPITAL?
SORRY, I CAN'T HEAR YOU CLEARLY
HUH? WHAT?
SHE DIED

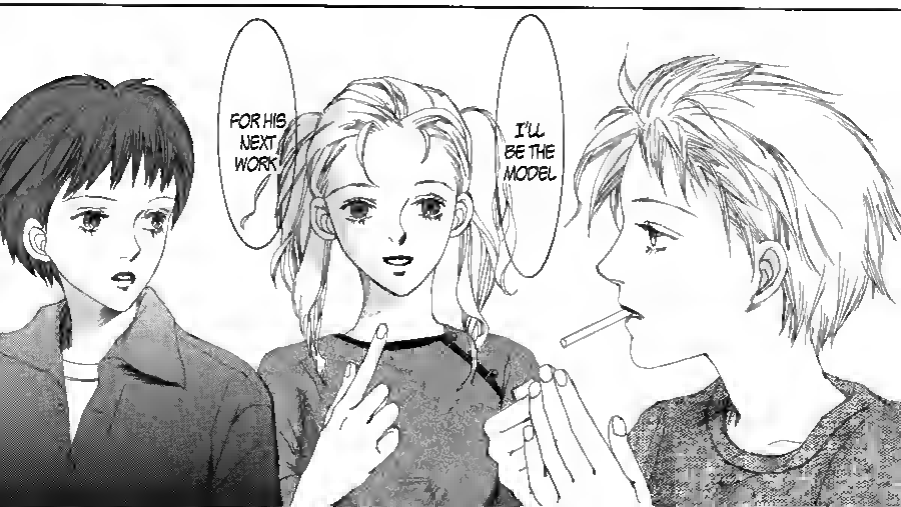
SHE WAS SO YOUNG.
SHE... IS SO LIGHT.
SO FRAG-ILE.

I didn't expect him to be so put together.
He's completely different from how he was on the phone. He looks so calm now.
I can say
But there's nothing
I should say something.
BECAUSE
WE REALLY CAN'T
WE CAN'T EVEN SEE HER FOR A FINAL GOODBYE.

SO THE CASKET IS CLOSED.
IT WOULD BE HORRIFY-ING TO SEE .
SHE WAS RUN OVER BY A TRUCK.
NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HER BODY DURING THE FINAL MOMENTS
TWISH
TWISH

The three of us were so different from each other,

but we were always together.



BY HIS WORK, DO YOU MEAN DOLLS?
THAT'S AMAZING, TO BE A CRAFTS-MAN!
SO YOU ACCEPT?
THAT'S GREAT... THANK YOU!
IT MUST BE GREAT TO HAVE A DREAM LIKE HE DOES.
WHAT'S YOURS?
I'M STILL TRYING TO FIND MY WAY.
SO WHAT ABOUT YOU?
DON'T
EVER, EVER TELL HIM, OKAY?

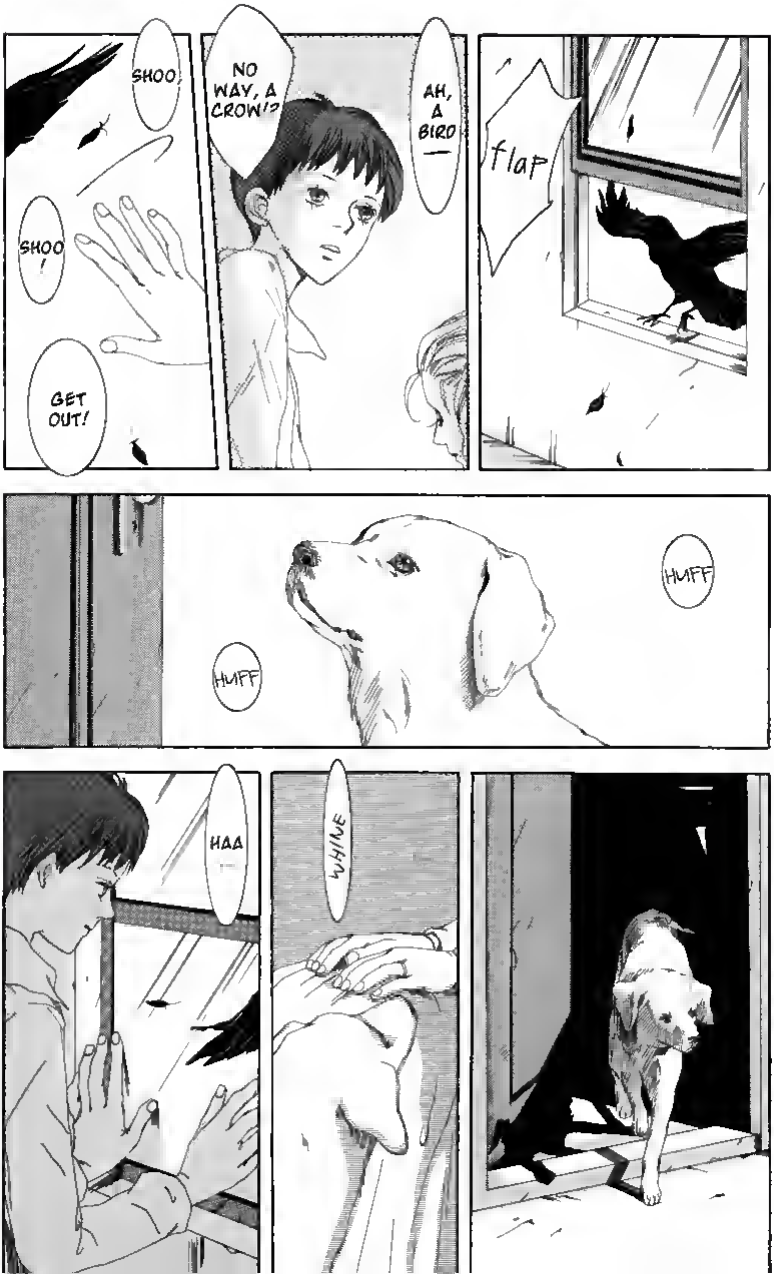
YEAH,
THAT'S IT!
MY DREAM IS TO MARRY HIM.
WHISPER
AH!
Her dream never came true.
I was dreaming!

that she felt that way
Did he know

ARRIVED YESTER-DAY.
THE RING I ORDERED

ALSO WEAR MINE.
I'LL

IT'S A PERFECT FIT.


SHOO
SHOO!
GET OUT!
NO WAY, A CROW!?
AH, A BIRD—
flap
HUFF
HUFF
HAA—
WHINE

—CLATTER
... ACK!!
LIMP
WHAT HAP-PENED ?
ARE YOU OK ?
tap tap tap

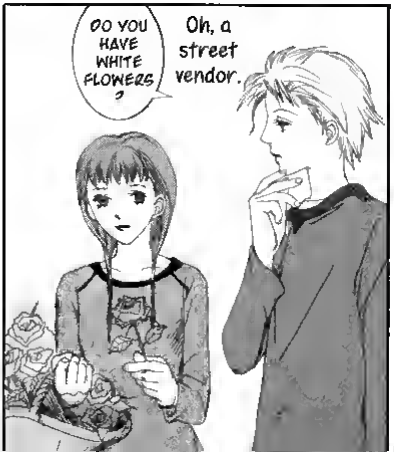
BUT WHY WOULD A DOG AND A CROW BOTH SUDDENLY FIND THEIR WAY IN?
THIS IS BECAUSE I LEFT THE DOOR OPEN.
I'M SORRY.
SORRY.

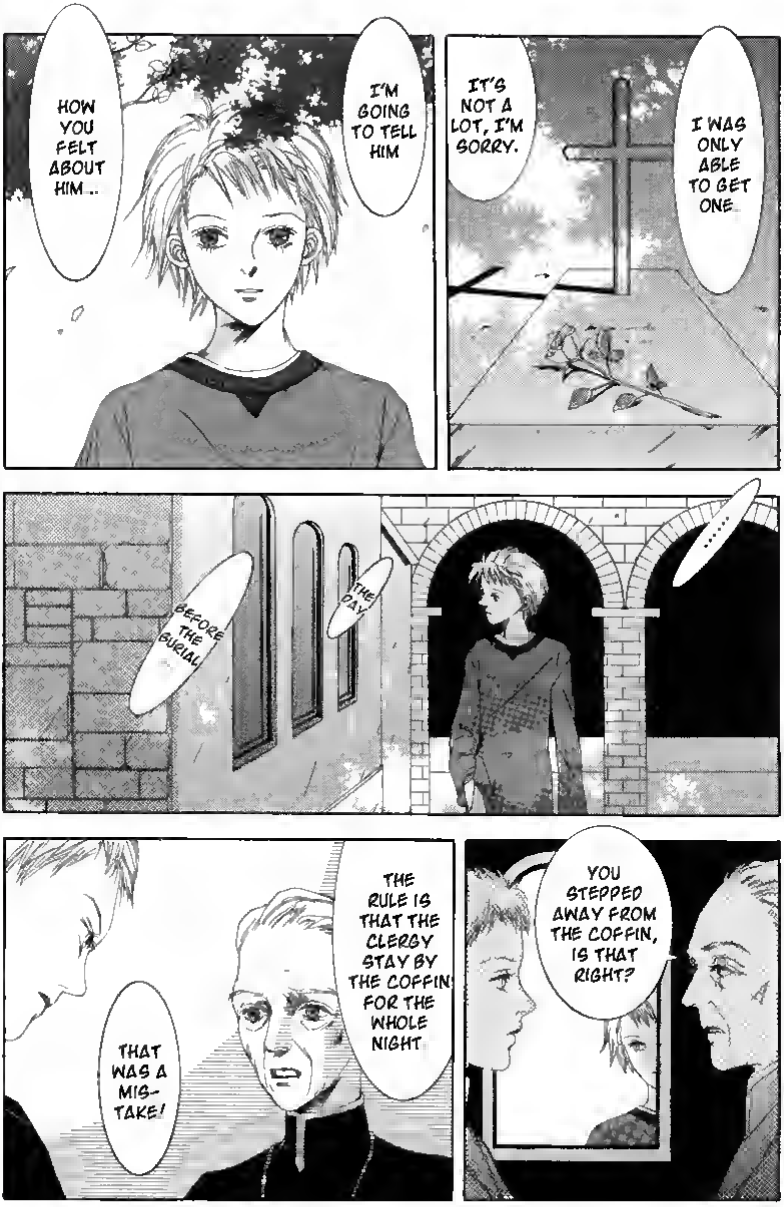
.....

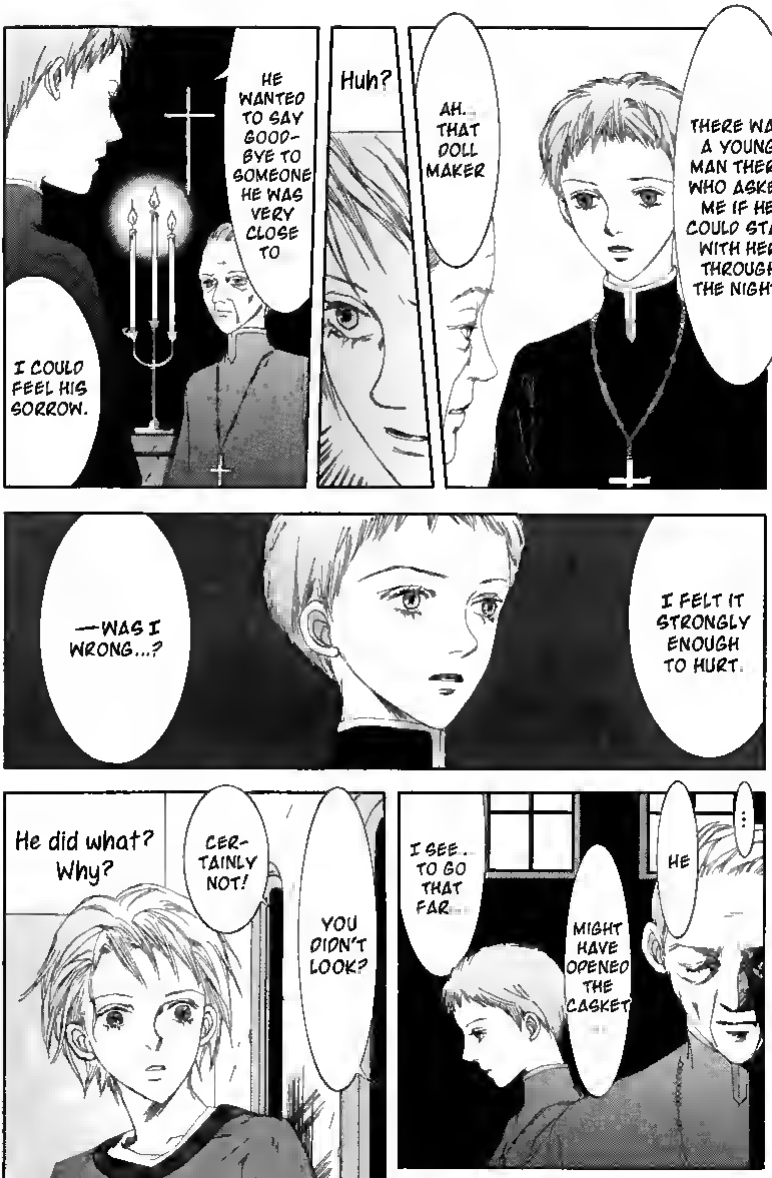
WELCOME.

WHAT IS IT WITH THE FLOWER SHOPS IN THIS TOWN?
THAT'S THE SIXTH STORE
They're sold out here, too.
I'M SORRY, I'M AFRAID WE'RE OUT OF WHITE FLOWERS.

DAMN IT, NOW WHAT
She loved white flowers.
It absolutely has to be white.


DO YOU HAVE WHITE FLOWERS?
Oh, a street vendor.


HOW YOU FELT ABOUT HIM..
I'M GOING TO TELL HIM
IT'S NOT A LOT, I'M SORRY.
I WAS ONLY ABLE TO GET ONE
BEFORE THE BURIAL
THE DAY
.....
THE RULE IS THAT THE CLERGY STAY BY THE COFFIN FOR THE WHOLE NIGHT
THAT WAS A MIS-TAKE!
YOU STEPPED AWAY FROM THE COFFIN, IS THAT RIGHT?

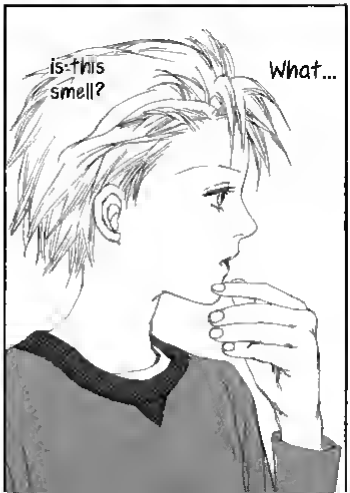

THERE WAS A YOUNG MAN THERE WHO ASKED ME IF HE COULD STAY WITH HER THROUGH THE NIGHT.
AH... THAT DOLL MAKER
Huh?
HE WANTED TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO SOMEONE HE WAS VERY CLOSE TO
I COULD FEEL HIS SORROW.
I FELT IT STRONGLY ENOUGH TO HURT.
—WAS I WRONG...?
HE
I SEE.. TO GO THAT FAR...
MIGHT HAVE OPENED THE CASKET
YOU DIDN'T LOOK?
CER-TAINLY NOT!
He did what? Why?

I think you're the last person that she'd have wanted to see her.
I wonder...
Did he see her?
Anyhow...

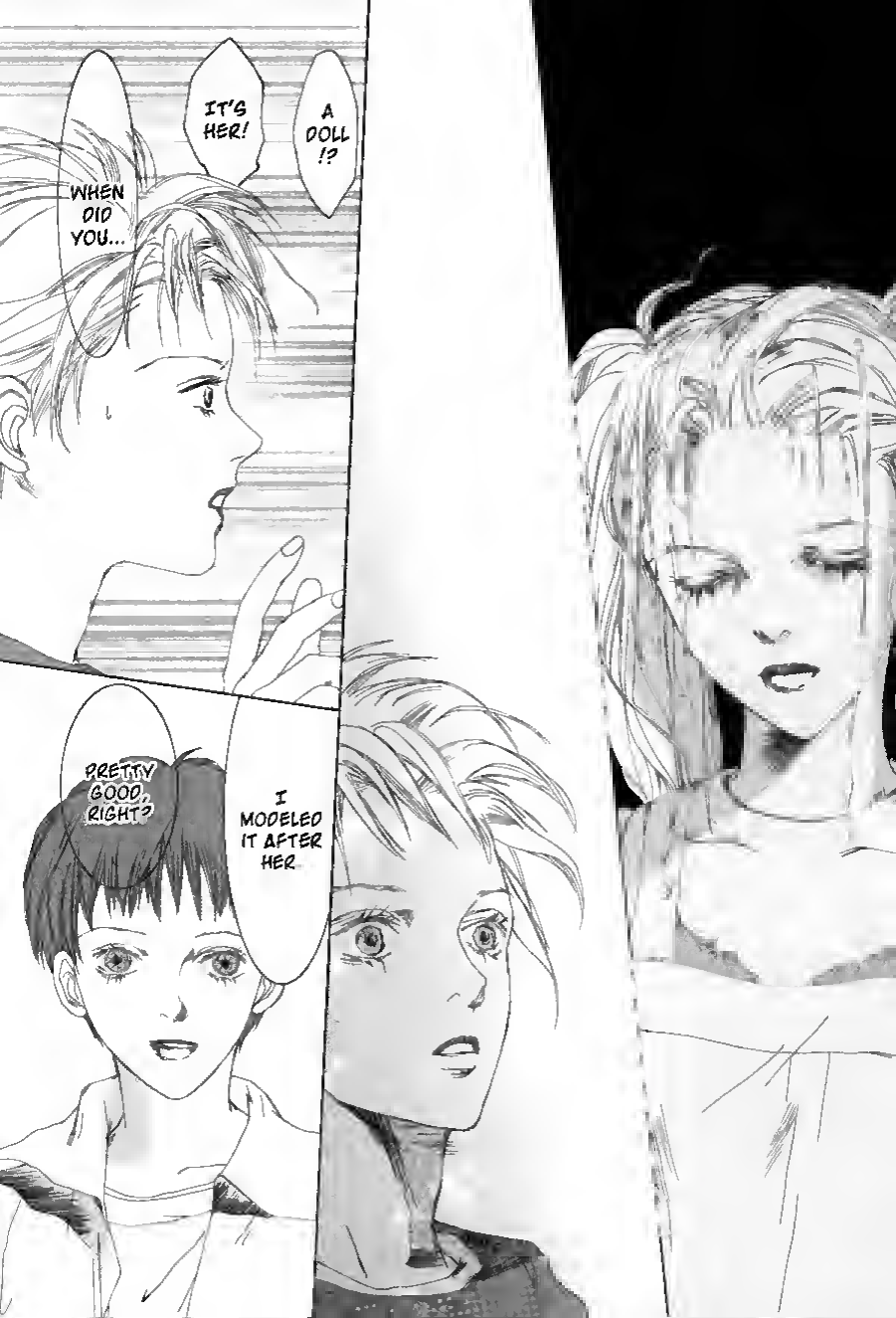
knock knock
HEY, YOU THERE?
What's up with the sun today?
It's so hot.

CREAK
MUWAAH

ARE YOU THERE?
—HEY.
Is he making some kind of pot-pourri?


What...
is this smell?

YO.
WEL-COME.
WHAT'S UP?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANNA TALK TO YOU ABOUT
SO...
CAN I OPEN THE WINDOW FIRST?
SORRY, YOU CAN'T
MAKE SURE YOU CLOSE THE DOOR, TOO.
COME IN.
LET'S TALK IN MY ROOM.


A DOLL !?
IT'S HER!
WHEN DID YOU...
I MODELED IT AFTER HER
PRETTY GOOD, RIGHT?

.....
CLINK
SEE?
thump
clatter clatter
I MADE SURE THEY WERE COMPLETELY OPEN,
THE EYES WERE THE HARDEST TO MAKE
TO DO THIS AT A TIME LIKE THIS
YOU'RE INSANE

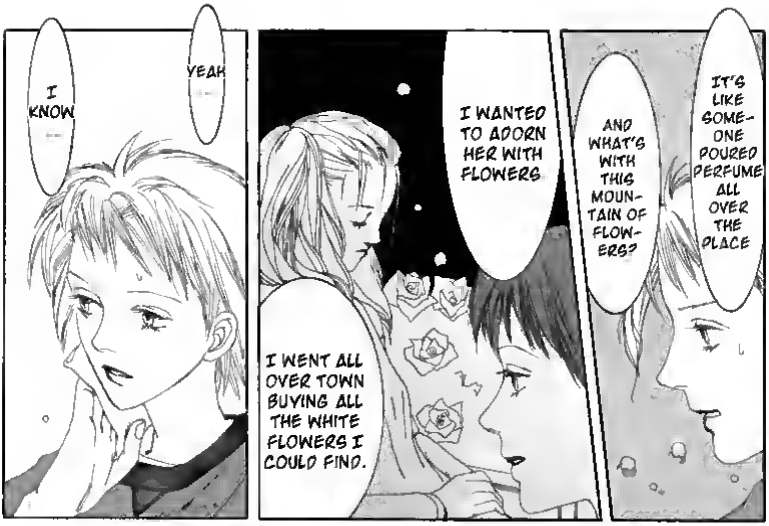
I'M STILL HAPPY
THAT I FINISHED IT DESPITE THE CIRCUM-STANCES
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LEFT ARM?
A DOG ...
TOOK IT AND RAN...
IT'S AWFUL.

The doll that looks exactly like her
It would have meant that he planned to marry the doll.

"Did the doll have anything on her ring finger?"
I wanted to ask that, but I was so scared I couldn't utter the words

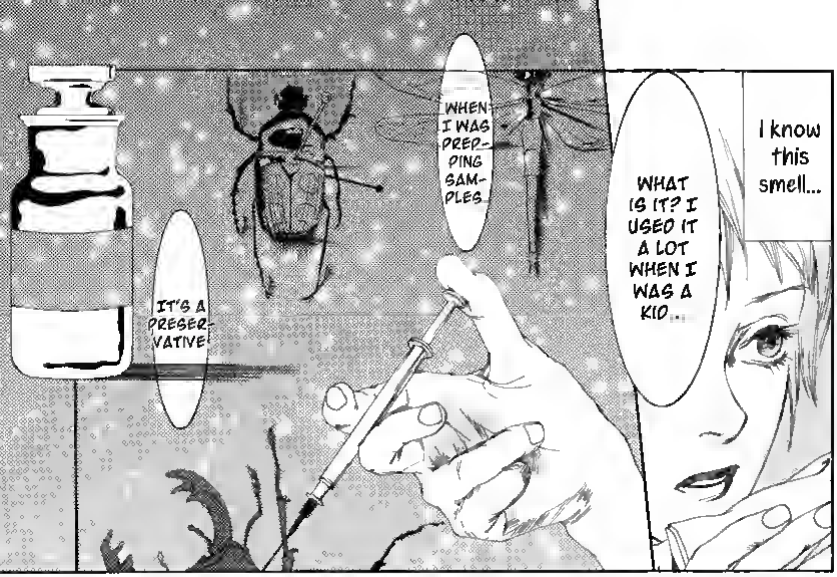
IT'S THE SMELL IN THIS ROOM!
I'M NOT FEELING WELL. WHAT ABOUT YOU!?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'RE A LITTLE PALE

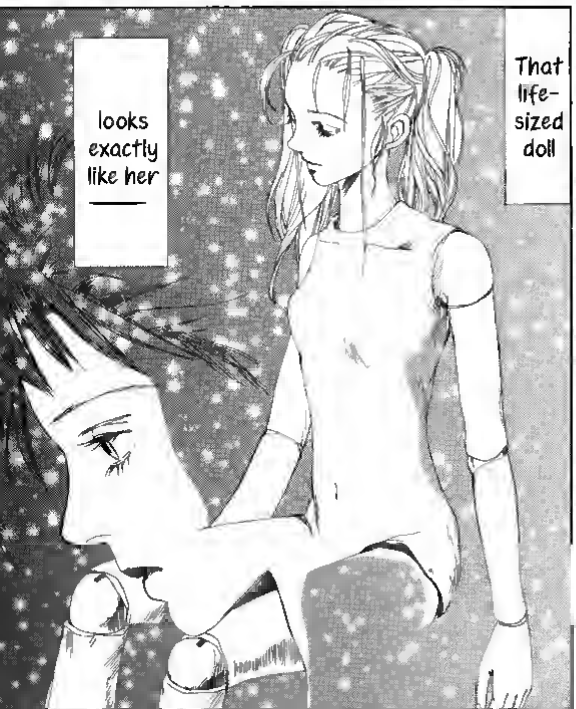
THE SMELL?


I KNOW
YEAH
I WANTED TO ADORN HER WITH FLOWERS
I WENT ALL OVER TOWN BUYING ALL THE WHITE FLOWERS I COULD FIND.
AND WHAT'S WITH THIS MOUNTAIN OF FLOWERS?
IT'S LIKE SOMEONE POURED PERFUME ALL OVER THE PLACE
IT WAS NOTHING.
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

Turns out I couldn't tell him...
I'm tired...

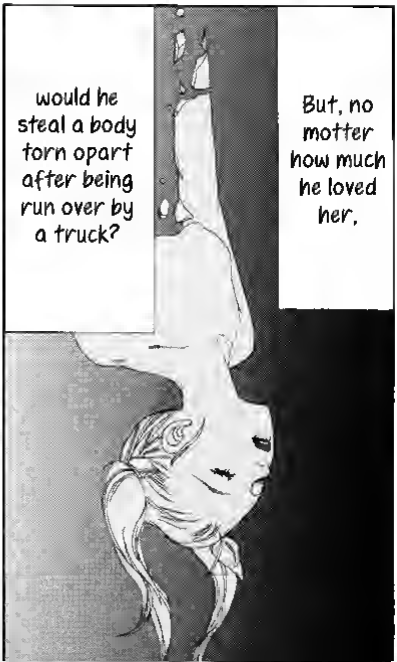
That doll...
is his love personified.
It was scary how much the doll looked like her...
Of course I couldn't, in that situation.
They both loved each other...
but now it's too late...
Why does it smell like chemicals?
Ahh... it's probably from that thing I spilled in his house.
FINCH


I know this smell...
WHAT IS IT? I USED IT A LOT WHEN I WAS A KID...
WHEN I WAS PREPPING SAMPLES
IT'S A PRESERVATIVE!


That life-sized doll
looks exactly like her

WHAT THE HELL AM I THINKING?
SHE'S ALREADY BEEN BURIED.
We all carried her,
lamenting how young she was.
SHE WAS SO YOUNG
SHE IS SO LIGHT
SO FRAGILE ...
WAIT ...
WAS THE CASKET LIGHT?
DOES THAT MEAN...

Was it empty?
The casket was never opened
because of how violently she died.
AND THEN,
THERE'S THE FACT THAT HE WAS ALONE WITH THE CASKET THE WHOLE NIGHT...
He had time to take it...


But, no matter how much he loved her,
would he steal a body torn apart after being run over by a truck?

RIGHT... THE BODY WAS MANGLED...
SO HIS MODEL HAS TO BE A DOLL.
WHAT A RELIEF....

I was aut af line.
Naw that I think about it,
He always wanted ta make a model of her...
SO YOU WILL BE
MY MODEL?
He couldn't help himself, he laved her sa much...
THANK YOU!
THAT'S GREAT...

Unless

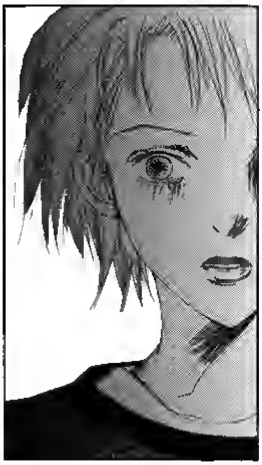
there's

some meat inside

.....

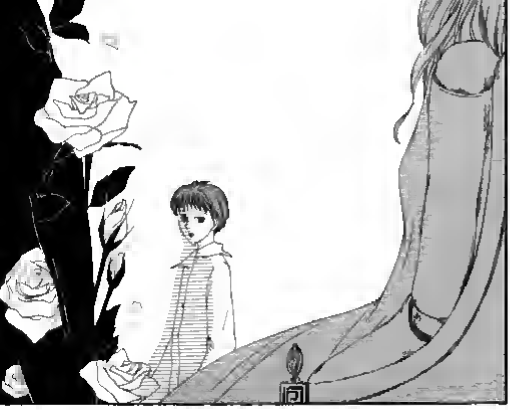
That dog is eating the doll's missing hand.

Why would he be eating that?



BUT THEY'RE STILL THERE
THERE'S FEWER OF THEM.

I WONDER WHY



SOON I'LL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE YOUR LEFT ARM!
HEY, I JUST ORDERED A NEW RING.

IS IT
THE SMELL?

AND THEN WE CAN FINALLY GET MARRIED